CHALLENGE

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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‘REVOLT IS NECESSARY!”

KCC STUDENTS FACED KKKOPS, ADVANCED FIGHTBACK

BROOKLYN, NY, June 19—“Leave these kids alone, they were just playing!” “NO ONE wants you here so LEAVE!” “Back away from these kids NOW!” About two dozen Kingsborough Community College students, plus faculty, friends and members of the communist Progressive Labor Party were gathered for our Juneteenth barbecue at a park surrounded by families and children. When two NYPD officers pulled up and ordered a nearby group of children to play elsewhere, we sprang into action gathering our forces!

As the officers got right in the face bullying one twelve-year-old shouting if they were a “tough guy”, we surrounded the kids in protection and commanded the kkkops to leave. The kkkops appeared to retreat, but then followed the children toward a playground and continued threatening them. We organized a crowd again and after a second confrontation, where an exasperated officer said he wished he could beat us up, they’re the ones who beat it!

This incident summarizes our year of struggle at KCC. And after ups and downs, sharp discussions alongside strengthening confidence and unity, KCC’s struggle and our Party have grown and given us a taste of real victory: our multiracial, multigender students’ determined leadership in confrontation with the kkkops IS that victory, a year in the making! Amidst a dark night of imperialism and fascism, a new generation is fighting back and leading the international working class closer to communist revolution.

Spring ’23: Antiracist class struggle in session!

The year of struggle began with our response to a police attack on our friend Adrian and continued as weeks became months of resistance to police and administrative harassment throughout the winter (see previous CHALLENGEs). When we returned to campus in the spring, students continued to struggle through the campus police and administration’s months of daily and ongoing harassment, lies, gaslighting, and academic charges against both students and faculty in Common Ground.

KCC students walked out against racism of campus on May Day

We continued mass leafleting to counter the administration’s lies, while in PLP study groups we analyzed the KCC struggle and the world situation through CHALLENGE editorials and Party documents like Reform and Revolution. A student supporter created a website for us, and we formed a legal defense committee to handle the numerous charges and investigations against us.

KCC admins harass Black student; are taught a lesson

Our main task during this period was “court support.” The KCC administration outrageously charged the Black student who was called the n-word by the racist student in November. So, for each interrogation with the college attorney, we organized a crowd of friends and supporters to walk with them and wait outside in solidarity. When the administration —led by a liberal Black woman president and college attorney— tried bullying the student into accepting a disciplinary letter for “moving threateningly” in response to being called the n-word, this solidarity helped build their confidence they had done NOTHING

Continued on page 3

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

★**EDITORIAL** *Russia:bosses’ internal weakness drives fascism ...p 2*

★**HAITI** *Smash imperialist bosses and borders..p 3*

★**PAKISTAN** *Pakistan’s ruling class in disarray..p3*

★**PLP 101** *PLP is your Party for communism..p 8*

OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.
While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Russia: bosses' internal weakness drives fascism

The short-lived mutiny of a Russian mercenary highlights the growing volatility and sharpening threat of fascism and world war as rival imperialists compete for global supremacy. On June 23, Yevgeny Prigozhin and his state-funded Wagner Group rebelled against Russian President Vladimir Putin and his military leadership, seizing the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don and advancing within 120 miles of Moscow. While many details are still unknown, Prigozhin's plan clearly backfired. With no backing from within the government or military, or mass support from soldiers or workers, the rebellion ended in failure within 24 hours.

Even so, the instability shown by Prigozhin's mutiny is driven by the same crisis of capitalism that's pushing the gangster imperialists ruling the U.S., Russia. and China toward World War III. As competition among rival imperialists intensifies, so does their desperation. Fights within the ruling class are escalating, as we see in the clash in the U.S. that is playing out in the Supreme Court and the 2024 presidential race. None of these capitalists will hesitate to sacrifice millions of workers in the coming world war.

The only way out of this imperialist hellscape is for workers to turn the guns around against all of these bosses, join the revolutionary communist Progressive Labor Party, and turn imperialist war into communist revolution!

Capitalist instability leads to world war

Just as in the U.S. and every other capitalist country, there are splits within the Russian ruling class. Billionaire Yevgeny Prigozhin heads the Wagner Group, a private military contractor that Putin was glad to use for nearly a decade to project Russian imperialism throughout the world. Wagner has been most active in Syria, Mozambique, Libya, Central African Republic, and Mali. In 2014, following the U.S.-backed "Euromaidan" coup in Ukraine, Wagner was instrumental in the Russian annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. Since war broke out in Ukraine in 2022, Wagner forces have been a major part of the Russian offensive.

The limits of the unity between Prigozhin and Putin were exposed during the recent bloody siege of Bakhmut, which was led by Wagner forces. For months, Prigozhin had openly criticized Russian preparation and execution of the war. With no honor among capitalist thieves, Putin replied by letting Wagner lead the attack on Bakhmut — but withheld supplies, dooming the mercenaries to tremendous losses (Seymour Hersh, 6/29).

Capitalism is based on competition, first and last. This reality rots all the way into the bones of every part of every capitalist state, without exception. Prigozhin personifies Vladimir Lenin's analysis of the basic instability of imperialism over 100 years ago. The deepening political and economic chaos of capitalism, as Lenin noted, is reflected everywhere in the capitalist class. Until the working class overthrows the capitalist bosses with communist revolution, world wars are inevitable.

Nationalism = loyalty to imperialism

Like all imperialist warmongers, Russia is using unrelenting nationalist propaganda to win political support from workers for the war. Nationalism is the poisonous idea of unity between workers and bosses in a given nation. But the Russian bosses' reliance on Prigozhin, like the U.S. bosses' reliance on Blackwater mercenaries in Iraq, reflects weakness. In both cases, the rulers need to rely on soldiers-for-hire instead of politically committed fighters. To correct this weakness, Russian and U.S. bosses are constantly lying through their teeth with cynical propaganda to build nationalism and win workers to support their empires.

Especially galling are Putin's references to the communist-led Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany as he claims to be "de-nazifying" Ukraine. Yes, the Ukrainian army integrated neo-Nazi militias—the Azov, Aidar, and Sich battalions—into their National Guard, which then received training from the U.S. Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade (see CHALLENGE, 7/15/15). But the murderous hypocrite Putin had no problem with the fact that the Wagner Group, now officially integrated into the Russian army, openly recruited white supremacist militias like the Russian Imperial Movement and Russian National Unity (Guardian, 3/20/22). Workers have no good choices between the nazis of Russia and the nazis of Ukraine! We say smash them all!

Fascism: a violent shift out of weakness

Internal divisions and threats from rival imperialists are destabilizing Russia, China, and the U.S. As the inter-imperialist rivalry propels the world toward a potentially nuclear weapon-fueled World War III, capitalists in Russia, China and the U.S. are compelled to impose order and discipline on their own class and also upon the working class. This is the essence of fascism: the stripping away of the mask of liberal democracy to expose the bloodthirsty, nationalist, racist, sexist forces that lie at the heart of capitalism.

By contrast to the division and disunity among capitalists in the U.S., the dominant Russian bosses' ability to discipline their ruling class opposition is far more developed. After the Soviet Union imploded in 1991 and the Russian rulers lost rich territories such as Ukraine, they responded by hollowing out their pretense of liberal democracy and resorted to more open fascism to claw back their diminished empire. For years, Putin has exiled, jailed or murdered political opponents like Alexei Navalny, while hammering workers with racism and drowning them in blood to reassert Russian control over Chechnya and Georgia. Progressive Labor Party believes that the liberal Big Fascists of U.S. finance capital—fronted by politicians in the Democratic Party—represent the greatest danger to our class. Despite their weaknesses and internal divisions, this set of bosses is best equipped to impose the discipline on other capitalists that we see today in Russia and China.

Fight for your class, not your country! Join PLP!

As CHALLENGE goes to press, youth, and workers across France are in armed rebellion against a racist police murder, showing the international working class the way (see article on page ?? in this issue). If workers around the world are organized to fight with the bravery and militancy of our class brothers and sisters in France, under the communist leadership of PLP, we will dump every Prigozhin and Putin, every Biden and Trump, into the dustbin of history. We will liberate the international working class by creating a society led by and for workers. By organizing solidarity with the rebellion in France within our unions, classrooms, and mass organizations, we'll advance the internationalism we need to smash all imperialist bosses. Only by building a mass PLP and fighting for communist revolution can the working class smash racism, sexism, nationalism, and imperialism once and for all! Join us!✪

Justice for William

Combat the bosses' state terrorism

Prince George's County, Maryland, July 5—Since 1977, Progressive Labor Party here has joined and led workers to fight against government-sponsored terrorism by police, prosecutors, judges, and jails. Today was no different!

Antiracists, PLP, and the family are demanding justice for William Green and conviction of killer kop Michael Owen. William deserves nothing short of a communist revolution, for all reforms are a dead-end plan for the working class.

Who was William?

On January 27, 2020, William had been in a car accident. He was searched, handcuffed behind his back, and put in the front seat of the police cruiser. None of the bosses' typical racist excuses for killing applied—William was not resisting, he was not armed, and there was no warrant for him. Yet, kkkop Michael Owen entered the police cruiser and almost immediately fired seven shots, killing William, who was only 47 and a father.

Killer cop Owen was charged with second degree murder and other offenses related to the killing and has been in prison for three years, but he is still on the Prince George's County Police Force on administrative leave!

Slow-walking the murder case

The prosecutors and the cop's attorneys seem to be determined to drag out the case against Cop Owen, hoping people will forget this racist murder or get tired of protesting. The family, however, as a result of the efforts of Nikki Owens (William's cousin and family spokesperson), has doggedly stayed on the case. No advocate from the States Attorney's office was assigned to the family as is usually the case, so Nikki kept checking the PG County Case Search to keep abreast of changes to the case. When she noticed changes in the trial dates, she demanded more information about the change from the prosecutors.

After multiple emails and notifying the press, her diligence forced the prosecutors to reach out to the family just two weeks before the start of his trial to schedule a meeting. At the meeting, one week before the trial, they told the family that they offered Owen a plea deal and he accepted.

That was unacceptable to Nikki! She made "NO PLEA DEAL" for this killer cop the theme of a hastily-called rally on the court day. A week of press conferences and interviews with Nikki, other local fighters, and non-profit groups all had the same demand to prosecute the killer cop fully. Ironically, the plea deal was so bad that the judge declined the deal and set a trial date of November 27, 2023.

State-sponsored terror

PLP describes police brutality as a key part of state-sponsored terrorism because police act as agents of the capitalist class and their state apparatus. Their role in capitalist society is to oppress and terrorize the working class, especially Black workers.

The rulers fear that Black workers, super exploited and oppressed by capitalism, will fight back militantly as they have in the past. Police are to protect capitalism, property over people and attack all working-class people who oppose them with strikes, rallies, protests, and rebellions.

A Town Hall Podcast

A PLP member attended a Town Hall podcast which included Michael Brown's father from Ferguson and Oscar Grant's father from Oakland and others from Wisconsin, Florida, Georgia, Virginia, and Maryland. These directly impacted families decried Al Sharpton and Ben Crump as ambulance chasers just trying to exploit the families to get more media attention. Nikki pointed out that leaders of groups including the NAACP were similarly a problem.

She said that she wanted to be in touch with local fighters, not just the paid staff of large organizations who limit their engagement due to political connections or their non-profit status.

While community support sometimes flags, Nikki and PLP members said that one solution is to rely on the impacted families and boots-on-the-ground community outreach. On the other hand, Angelo Pinto, an attorney from New York City at the podcast, pushed the failing idea that impacted family members should try to get elected to leadership positions in groups like the NAACP and run for elected political office.

The struggle for justice and communism continues

PLP members struggle with friends in the mass organization over our strategies for struggle and our vision of a better, communist, world. Nikki is also asking questions, joining meetings, and reading CHALLENGE.

As individuals and families directly impacted by all forms of injustice become more involved in our activities, we hope to bring them closer to the PLP so they become leaders in the revolutionary struggle for communism that will eliminate racist government-sponsored terrorism.

Broadening the fight

PL'ers have joined Nikki's family at hearings on procedural motions leading up to the trial. Recent efforts by the cop's lawyer to move the trial to a more conservative location in Maryland failed, as family and supporters filled the courtroom.

Baltimore PLP comrades and friends active in the West Wednesdays (a struggle to seek justice for Tyrone West who was killed by police in 2013) joined

Continued on page 5

Fightback in session: strike solidarity, May Day walkout

Continued from page 1

wrong as the victim of racist attack. At the final interrogation, the student demanded a hearing in front of a tribunal of students and faculty. The administration caved in and agreed to a deal on OUR terms!

Revolt is necessary! Rutgers strike solidarity

Spring Break was spent at the Rutgers – Newark strike (see CHALLENGE, 4/26). KCC, other CUNY students and faculty, and PL'ers came over three days, bringing food, drumming skills, and CHALLENGE to the striking graduate students. KCC students also played an enthusiastic role in anti-scab duty, volunteering to patrol campus buildings in response to reports of scab classes, interrupt and occupy the scab classes they found, and invite the students and staff to join the strike.

Striking Rutgers students shared their lessons in building a movement through years of base building, communist political struggle and uniting workers through rank-and-file leadership. While liberal "democratic socialist" union misleaders sabotaged the strike movement at every opportunity, a victory was in convincing workers that if we want change, "revolt is necessary."

Discussing the powerful Rutgers experiences, we resolved to strengthen the student-worker alliance needed to prepare for actions like walkouts, increasing CHALLENGE distribution, and build for a mass

NY/NJ strike movement against racist police, racist tuition increases and worsening learning conditions. In Common Ground, we proposed and collectively drafted a May Day leaflet calling for student-worker unity. We collectively translated it with the help of two of our Chinese-speaking students, and shared it with our Chinese-speaking cafeteria workers.

May Day: Students walkout!

After speaking at PLP's May Day event, on Monday, May 1, 31 KCC students and faculty walked out of class into the cafeteria, and marched chanting "Racism means? WE GOT TO FIGHT BACK!" out through the campus gates. A group of students and faculty continued onward to a demonstration of several hundred mainly Chinese and Spanish-speaking home health workers at New York City Hall demanding an end to 24-hour shifts and 12-hours' pay. 500 copies of our English/ Spanish/ Chinese leaflet were gone within an hour! We will stay in touch with these workers.

Afterwards, students and faculty joined with other CUNY students and faculty at Hunter College. We made it just in time to greet Hunter students and faculty staging their own walk-out. In a speech addressing over 100 CUNY students, a KCC student defiantly addressed how the police represent this racist system demanding our obedience, but we will never obey! KCC students concluded May Day helping lead the CUNY student march from Hunter College through Central Park.

Following the police confrontation on Juneteenth, we reflected on our year while gearing up for PLP's Summer Project. The more we dared to struggle and build confidence in each other and in the working class, the more we dared to fight back. We have a whole world to win! The struggle continues, and we'll see you at the Summer Project. JOIN US!✪

HAITI: Smash imperialist bosses and borders

HAITI, July 2—Since January 2023, the two-year "Humanitarian Parole" program has offered Haitians, Venezuelans, Cubans and Salvadorans the possibility of entering the U.S. without going through the traditional "illegal" channels. This program, which in reality aims to reduce the number of migrants crossing the U.S. borders, has been praised by many Haitian workers and others who only dream of fleeing a country plagued by gang terror, economic misery, and political instability. Even children only talk about traveling. But the reality is that U.S. imperialism prefers to camouflage the problems that we are facing more than to really come to our rescue. In the capitalist world, solidarity is not an option: the big fish have no mercy for the little ones—the countries of the global north have no compassion for the countries of the global south. Their only aim is to squeeze profits off the cheap labor of migrants.

"I can't wait, I can't wait any longer for my approval to come," admits a young graduate in legal sciences who is doing his second year of internship as a lawyer. He draws up a list of others like himself who have sponsors in the U.S. and have already applied to the program. He adds that many of these applicants, who have been waiting six months in limbo, are in danger of developing mental disorders from the stress, in particular depression. They are living on the edge, fearful of the insecurity created by the gangs and the rampant inflation that increasingly impoverishes them and their families. And there are others who can not find sponsors because the conditions set by Biden & Co. are very difficult for sponsoring friends and family members.

Those who do manage to leave come from all sections of society: workers (employed and unemployed), professionals, public and private executives, teachers and students. "Our country is pushing us out; we are not needed here," said one person interviewed for this article. "It's like we are in a pressure cooker, and the chief chef has opened the valve to let some steam out. This won't solve the problems that the Haitian masses are facing because of the profit system."

This is the march to Canaan, the Promised Land. Some people say it is a forced exodus even believing that the U.S. has hidden interests. Many know that what waits for them on the other side is not the gold in the streets but rather more racism, unemployment or low-wage jobs, underserved schools and hospitals, crowded and overpriced housing. So many deplore the program, but the contradiction is that it is hard to resist the urge to take advantage of it. They hope they will be able to fade into the population after the two-year "parole" ends.

Greetings to PLP Convention comrades and friends

The Progressive Labor Party in Haiti takes this opportunity to greet our comrades on the occasion of the PLP convention this month. We would like to be there with you, discussing the way we can build our Party into a fighting force for communist revolution, and building the PLP's influence in the working class and among students and soldiers around the world. However, the phony borders erected by the capitalists around the world have prevented us from sending representatives to our Party's gathering. We know that one day, those borders will be smashed, and workers will be able to move freely around the world, based on the needs of our class and our Party.

U.S. Imperialists Can't Find Other Countries to Intervene/Invade Haiti

For several months now, the "international community," that is the imperialists and their local lackeys, have been dithering on finding a solution to the crisis in Haiti. None of the countries in the region is willing to give in to U.S. demands to field an invasionary force to restore some semblance of stability. The U.S. bosses' decline in influence in the region is evident. Even Canada, a long-time imperialist player in Haiti, is hedging; the best they could come up with is setting up an office in the neighboring Dominican Republic to monitor the situation. The Dominican government rejected that idea, and both countries issued a toothless statement regarding their commitment to stability in Haiti.

The politicians in the Haitian bourgeoisie continue to act as if they are wearing blinders. Most working class people understand that these politicians are not their friends but are looking out for their own personal interests, looking for any opportunity for some sort of power grab. The local bourgeoisie crawls on hands and knees, in search of favor from the imperialist powers and multinational organizations.

The only solution is to stand up and fight back

You can feel the level of insecurity and fear in the masses. So when a Progressive Labor Party comrade says that she is not going to look for a sponsor to leave, that she is willing to "fight back against the capitalist system that has created this mess," she is often met with skepticism. But using patience and all the tools of historical and dialectical materialism that she has learned in PLP cadre schools and study groups, she can say that the workers of Haiti have fought for their liberation in the past and will do so again. Capitalism and imperialism have built-in contradictions that make life a misery for one, very large class of human beings who produce all value in society. That we have not just a few Polish soldiers (who deserted Napoleon's army during the Haitian Revolution and fought on the side of the enslaved workers), but will fight for the solidarity and unity of the entire international working class. We will build a new revolutionary communist movement that fights resolutely in the interests of our class.

This young comrade can make the difference in our ability to organize workers for communism and an egalitarian society! We have taken modest steps, engaging with our local populations in fighting against "food insecurity"—hunger through collective kitchens; organizing to provide masks and public sanitation kiosks against the Covid-19 pandemic; working together with our neighbors to rebuild homes and infrastructure after the 2021 earthquake in our area. These are all struggles that our Party initiated along with our friends to combat the local bosses who neglect the needs of workers and line their own pockets with 'international aid." We can do better and we can do more. There are many more like her who would like to maintain their conviction and their composure in such troubling social, economic and political situations. In the current chaos, the ideological foresight of the members of the PLP is revolutionary. Raising class consciousness through struggle and political education is a necessity for the growth of our Party. This will be our goal this summer in our cadre school.

Long live our struggle, long live PLP. Onwards to the final victory!

France: Youth rage against racist machine

The murder of Nahel M. on June 27th by a traffic cop in Nanterre, France set off a nationwide rebellion against racist police murders. Even after the cop who shot Nahel was arrested, people's anger and cynicism about the system continued to explode. This multiracial rebellion, led by teenage Black and North African workers, spread to more than 200 cities and towns across France. They responded with violence as the police attacked the young rebels in the streets and arrested more than 3000 people over five nights of demonstrations. The rebellion in France is inspiring as it shows the potential power of the working class. At the same time, like so many uprisings before, without an organized communist party and a political vision of fighting for a workers led society it ends as quickly as it began and leaves many people cynical about fighting back.

Nahel was shot by the police at point blank range. Initially the police lied and said he had tried to run them down, but video exposed their lies and showed them murdering Nahel by shooting him through the driver side window as the car started to drive away.

At first French President Emmanuel Macron tried to ignore the rebellion. He was recorded attending a concert on the second night. But the clashes between young people, angered at the ongoing racism of French capitalism and the police, spread beyond the working-class areas and thousands of people marched in the center of Paris. Macron, who visited police barracks to support his racist killers, looked to the police and the more fascist elements in the country to put down the rebellion.

The rebellion exposed, once again the extreme racism of capitalism. Nanterre is a working-class suburb that has a large number of people of North African descent as well as Black workers. Youth unemployment in Nanterre is at 23 percent (CNN, 7/1) and in France more than 20 percent of teenagers live below the poverty line. Many of them live in suburbs like Nanterre. Instead of the French bosses creating jobs for young people, the area is heavily policed. Across France the police have used identity check powers to harass and terrorize the working class. Young men perceived as Black or North African are 20 times as likely to be stopped by the police than the rest of the population (Guardian, 6/30).

As the demonstrations have died down the French ruling class has organized pro-government rallies across the country. These "restore order" rallies have been led by the most openly racist elements in France, including the fascist Marie Le Pen's National Rally (RN) which is calling for more prisons and to have people that are arrested for any reason to be evicted from public housing. The working class can't rely on the bosses to fix capitalism. Instead of making things better the bosses respond with more racism.

These rebellions have shown once again that the working class has the power to shut down and overthrow capitalism. It has also shown that this will only happen by the building of a revolutionary communist movement that can fight to take power through communist revolution.

Pakistan's ruling class in disarray

PAKISTAN, July 3—Pakistan is in deep trouble! Political instability, economic destruction, religious sectarianism, skyrocketing inflation, poverty, nationalism, racism and chaos are pushing the country on the brink of destruction thanks to capitalism, a system spiraling further into crisis, and escalating inter-imperialist competition. A former ruling party (PTI) was removed from the government through a vote of no confidence which resulted in tightened surveillance, state oppression, police torture and disappearances. Amid this political instability, PLP is trying to organize for communism.

Dangers of compromising with the bosses

Capitalist bosses are using various tactics to continue the exploitation of the working class. They use their puppets to scare the masses from even thinking about making a revolution. In the 1960s when the masses were angry with the capitalist system and trying to organize into a party (Communist Party of Pakistan) to overthrow capitalism, the soil was not ripe for a revolution and the party was very tiny.

So the bosses used their puppets to convince the party leaders that 'it is good time to overthrow the government and make a revolution,' which resulted in a failed attempt. Quickly all the leadership and dedicated members were arrested and blamed for conspiracy against the state.

Many of them were sentenced for life time imprisonment, some were killed and some left the country to find a safe place.

Again in the mid-seventies when the masses were fed up with the system, they started to join a newly formed phony Pakistan People's Party (PPP), to bring change and get rid of exploitation. Progressive student leaders, union leaders, intellectuals and workers joined the PPP with the hope that these so-called progressive leaders will help them out of poverty, illiteracy and exploitation, promising land to the landless.

They were not revolutionaries; they just used the name of the working class and exploited the sentiments of oppressed people to take power but did not take any steps to ease the life of the working class.

The workers' dreams of a prosperous and poverty-free Pakistan were dashed.

Today, as Progressive Labor Party (PLP) continues to spread communist ideas here, and continues to blossom, we are hopeful that one day we can destroy this rotten system once and for all, and replace it with a system where all workers are safe and can flourish.

Capitalist crisis and chaos

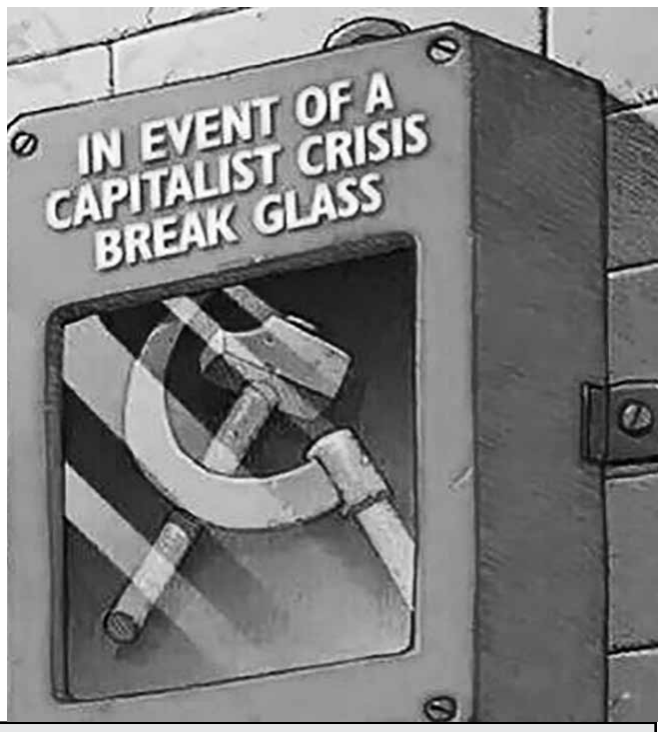
There is ongoing political infighting and crisis in Pakistan. Recently, when the political and economic conditions of Pakistan were calling on the poor working class to build a strong anti-capitalist movement, it was another bosses' trap. The bosses galvanized Imran Khan and his followers to attack military installations, martyrs' monuments, military and police vehicles and personnel.

This resulted in a strong retaliation from the state, attacking both the ruling class and the working class. The government banned internet services for several weeks and started to monitor every conversation over the phone or internet. Many innocent people were arrested because they had a telephone conversation with the people involved in attacking the military installations.

Imran Khan (IK) and his goons thought that attacking the military installations they could oust the military leadership, and they would get another chance to rule and bleed the working class dry. Firstly IK blamed the U.S. for "regime change" to get the sympathies of common people, but when he realized that U.S. bosses were angered by his blame game, he changed his tune, and begged them again for help.

A few days ago it was exposed by the defense minister in a TV interview that a rebellion against new military leadership and the newly formed government, was unsuccessful. Many military officers involved in this conspiracy are held by security forces. Now almost all the senior leadership of PTI left the party.

Amid the chaos of the Khan faction versus Pakistan's military establishment standoff, the PLP is striving for international communist revolution. We are preparing the soil to ripen into an international communist revolution by organizing workers, peasants and students in our rank and file. We believe that only the working class and their party, PLP, can get rid of exploitation, poverty, inequality, slavery and injustice by forging an international struggle against capitalism. Long live international communist revolution! ✪



PL'ers give leadership to the working class

May Day was celebrated with joy and revolutionary passion all over Pakistan. Workers, students and different trade unions organized May Day with banners explaining that we need to change capitalism with a system organized by the working class; from each according to abilities to each according to needs.

Capitalist bosses are greedy so they exploit us to work for their profit system. They want us to die in their imperialist wars while making profit for them. They want us to be exploited every minute of our lives as we work from dawn to dusk. And then they also want us to protect their exploitative system.

But Progressive Labor Party organizes the working class to wage war against the bosses, and one day lead a communist revolution.

Capitalist misleaders

It is ironic that the majority of workers cannot participate in May Day processions because they have to work all day to earn something to feed their families. Daily wagers, contract workers and farm workers cannot leave work to celebrate May Day either because their masters don't allow them or they have to get some wage to meet their needs.

Trade union misleaders are here just to protect the interests of bosses; they are unable to bring something good to the lives of the poor working class. They are getting a monthly fund from every worker by promising that they will bend the bosses down to accept the demands of workers but behind the curtain they are bargaining with the bosses to get more advantages for themselves.

Time after time these misleaders are being used by the bosses to cool down the anger of poor workers by assuring them on behalf of bosses that 'your demands will be accepted in a few weeks or months'! Workers are still deprived of every facility which is supposed to be provided by the factory owners to the workers according to labor laws.

Communist leadership

In May Day processions and seminars our comrades criticized the prevailing system and its defenders; those are usually union misleaders. Our comrades explained that these so-called union leaders are not essential to leading their struggle against the capitalist system. We pointed out each time workers organized a strike unleashing their class anger through militant sit-ins to close down production, then these misleaders bargained with the bosses to break the strike.

Our comrades also explained the difference between criminals and leaders; they said we need communist leaders who believe in the power of the working class, not the criminal-minded gangsters who are using the name of workers to get benefits for themselves. These criminals are in the guise of leaders, as they torture and abuse the workers even asking the bosses to fire someone if they think that worker is going to challenge their authority.

We are trying to give communist leadership to the working class. We visit factories to start the process of unionizing at the workplace but we are facing hurdles which are being spread by the factory owners, contractors, security personnel and the misleaders.

Our comrades talk about the importance of changing the system and forging the reform struggle. We explain the necessity of an international communist movement against capitalism. The Progressive Labor Party is spreading its communist ideas among the working class and the workers are responding.

Justice for William

Don't let bosses kill class anger, embrace communist revolution

Continued from page 3

local supporters in the courtroom. One is a young leader who is quickly learning about the court system! Nikki's family and other community members welcomed the West Wednesday brothers and sisters to this fight for justice.

On September 28, 2023 at 9 am, there will be another hearing. The cop's lawyer is trying to have evidence against Cop Owen ruled inadmissible. This type of lying lawyering led to Zimmerman's acquittal in the Trayvon Martin murder case. PLP will continue to mobilize more people to attend all hearings leading up to trial and the trial itself on November 27.

The antics of prosecutors and defense attorneys in cases that involve victims of police violence should themselves be considered criminal. Families are experiencing repeated trauma by court systems that allow trial delays for frivolous reasons, toy with the time of the court and families with unnecessary motions, and have families sit in court as defense attorneys criminalize victims in hopes of getting reduced sentences or charges dropped. And most families endure years of this government-sanctioned treatment as they fight for some resemblance of justice for their loved ones.

Reformism a dead-end

Reform groups that PLP members participate in fought in the state legislature to establish county-based Police Accountability Boards (PAB). Predictably, no county in Maryland gave their Board investigatory or subpoena powers, so such toothless organizations will, like civilian review boards across the country, rubber stamp police reports.

These groups keep focusing on who to elect and then pressure them to push a police accountability agenda. They organize many trips to Annapolis, Maryland's state capital, to testify on bills and meet with state legislators. Canvassing to bring out workers to vote is crucial to them. This is an example of how reform misleaders dull the fightback and steer workers away from revolution.

PL members involved in all of these efforts constantly point out how these strategies are dead-ends in the struggle and that militant, revolutionary struggle for communism is the only strategy that makes sense. Some fighters are tuning in!✪

MTA & Union bosses railroad workers with pathetic contract

NEW YORK CITY, July 3—It's sellout contract season at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) New York City Transit Authority section (NYCTA). The boss-loving TWU Local 100 misleadership hurt the workers who keep the city's trains and buses running.

As with just about any "contract" under capitalism, this one is a racist slap in the face to NYCTA's mainly Black and Latin workers. It provides pathetic, below inflation wage increases, does nothing to improve the challenging time off process for some departments, forces employees to work even more hours, and joins up with the bosses' for profit Medicare Advantage scheme. With imperialist war with China and Russia impending overseas, the MTA must satisfy its Wall Street debt owners off the backs of both its ridership and workers. Local 100 is all too happy to oblige them in that goal with this pathetic offering.

NYC subway workers, 170 plus of whom died from Covid-19 moving essential workers while the racist MTA bosses disallowed us Personal Protective Equipment due to fears of "public perception," must realize that there will never be a "fair" or just contract under a system that places profit over the working class. The only way for transit workers to get what they and all workers deserve is to join together to smash capitalism and fight for a communist revolution, on and off the rails!

Paying off debt on workers' backs

Local 100 "leaders'' are performing their class role, working hand in hand with the MTA bosses, to repay the system's $48 billion in debt to Wall Street bankers. Decades of neglect by the city's bosses left the subway system in a decrepit state in the 1980s (Gothamist, 6/21). During this period, MTA leadership for the first time approached profiteering banks, all too eager to lend financial handouts. This ballooning debt has continually been used to finance new station expansions, train cars, buses and track, to be repaid through increased tolls, taxes and fares. Or in other words, by the working class!

Today, the amount the MTA will pay on this debt will represent 40 percent of its entire toll and fare revenue, a number that was less than four percent in 1984.

This means the bosses' banks have written blank checks to maintain the trains and buses in a barely good state of repair. And workers are perennially forced to endure the racist service cuts that come with this crushing debt. Those cuts are set to become even worse after ridership tanked during the pandemic, as the MTA admitted to its lenders in April (Gothamist, 6/21).

Now, with another racist fare hike on the horizon (New York Times, 5/22), which would bring in more money to finance bosses' pockets and barely the system itself, Local 100 cannot avoid the contradiction inherent in every union today: it must partner in tandem with management to produce an agreement that harms both MTA workers and the ridership!

Forcing workers to toil more

The tentative agreement expands on an employee availability clause, introduced in a previous contract, to force employees to work an additional five days. Once this goal is reached, "the parties will implement gainsharing of any additional improvement," according to the language. This means that the union will share these profits with the MTA bosses.

Employees who work in the Rapid Transit Operations (RTO) division, that includes train operators and conductors, already

Continued on page. 7

Reform and revolution at fun fundraiser

It's been awhile, but we had our first Wine Tasting fundraiser since April 2019. We raised money for the Progressive Labor Party's 2023 Summer Project and it was a rousing success! Over 50 comrades and friends showed up and it was quite a collective effort as many people stepped up and contributed to its success. As capitalism ravages the workers of the world more and more, it was inspiring to see a multiracial crowd of women and men committed to a better world for the working class. It was a little bit of the working class that under communism will run the world.

These Wine Tasting socials have always been fun events with a strong political component. They have helped to strengthen ties with friends that want a better world and with friends that are in struggles against racism and sexism and are also interested in that better world, communism. This year was a little different as we struggled with a short organizing timeline and also threatening weather. But the working class again came through as many people stepped up to help out. A friend collected money; she was friendly but efficient, making an important task easy. Another longtime friend took care of an auction that was meant to raise a little money. Wandering through the crowd, joking and cajoling, he raised a lot more. The food was not only plentiful, but fantastic. And people committed to taking part in the Party Summer Project.

Fight racism - organize for communism

But, most important was who came and who spoke and what was said. Many old friends showed up, but also new comrades and friends came from recent struggles. And it was clear that capitalism cannot be reformed. Whether it's racist harassment of students in Brooklyn or the horrible, intentional racism of migrants drowning in the Mediterranean, the whole damn capitalist system has to go!

At one high school where teachers and students fought to have a memorial for a Black student who was killed (see CHALLENGE, 4/12), the struggle goes on. The same principal who took down memorial posters is the same principal refusing to provide mandated services for English language learners. On the same campus, union misleaders are pushing a racist contract proposal and attacking teachers for merely asking questions (see CHALLENGE, 7/5). Some of these teachers came to the fundraiser. One of the teachers compared how the capitalist media is so concerned about some billionaires who died in a ridiculously lavish underwater excursion, while hundreds of migrants on a sinking boat (seeking refuge from the perils of imperialism) are allowed to die in the Mediterranean Sea with no effort to save them.

Meanwhile some students and faculty from Kingsborough Community College attended. They spoke about the continuing harassment of students at their college by an administration led by liberals including a Black woman president (see CHALLENGE, 1/18). These liberals are pursuing a baseless investigation of two faculty who defended a student who was tackled and arrested at the college for trying to stop a fight. They have forced students to drop out of school and they constantly harass students in the school cafeteria. The fightback has been active and ongoing with many students attending various actions and Party events.

At this fundraiser two students spoke about how this struggle has helped them see the power of the working class when we unite and fight back. They have both joined the Party.

Join the 2023 Summer Project

This fundraiser was a small step toward a successful Summer Project 2023. We will rededicate ourselves to building a revolutionary communist movement, train new young leaders and welcome many more leaders into the PLP as we fight for an egalitarian, communist world.

GLOSSARY:

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

Union misleadership is an opportunity to organize

Continued from page 6

have to compete against their coworkers using an automated phone system 20 days in advance, just to receive a day off. Many times, these day-off requests are denied.

Many in RTO use their sick days–which are always granted immediately–as a workaround. Management is directly responsible for many MTA workers being out, imposing harsh disciplinary suspensions and medically restricting them and making them go through hoops to return. Many workers were also out sick during the pandemic's worst days (Spectrum News, 3/24/20).

But of course, this clause makes no mention of those factors. And as long as the trains run, why would the bosses care about the well being of those operating them? A common demand that we have repeatedly expressed to the union in years past was for more "mental" health days. Many of our trips lack sufficient recovery time and the environment we work in can be mentally challenging at times. With the agreement, Local 100 not only is attacking the workers it represents, but the working class as a whole, as they will deal with a more tired operating workforce.

Contract privatizes Medicare for healthcare bosses' pockets

The union is also joining city efforts to strip workers of government Medicare for the racist Medicare Advantage (MA) plan (see CHALLENGE, 6/10/21). The agreement, if ratified, would eliminate the traditional option and force MTA retirees to choose one of two MA plans. In response to a backlash, union bosses have released statements claiming that the two plans will not result in diminished service and will be better than regular Medicare. But we know that Medicare Advantage places control in the hands of for profit private insurance companies that are known to deny care in several instances (New York Times, 4/28). The switch would also save the MTA money, as the government subsidizes Advantage plans more than the traditional one.

Flyers promoting the contract have said that it has no givebacks, but this effort to sell out mostly Black and Latin retirees (which was included in the document of the MTA's proposals given to the TWU in May) clearly proves they're lying to the membership!

Fighting back

Even with the strong likelihood that most departments will ratify the contract, as has been the case historically, many of our coworkers have denounced it on online Facebook groups and in our crew rooms. This is an opportunity to use that working class anger towards something even better than a better contract. Progressive Labor Party members in transit have been active in discussing the contract with coworkers, pushing them to vote no in higher numbers than usual, especially in the RTO department. These conversations also allow us to bring up the Party as the only way to win in the end.

The MTA workers who transport four of the city's eight million residents daily are in a unique position to strike a blow against the bosses who generate billions in profit from our labor and tell us we need to give back more concessions, when we gave the ultimate concession during the pandemic's darkest days: our lives!

But the union leadership will always strangle that that potential, which is why we must fight for a workers' world ✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Another racist assault by kkkops on Black workers

Washington Post, 6/15–Six sheriff's deputies responding to a report of drug activity at a Mississippi home in January deactivated their body cameras before forcibly entering the house…Once inside, the… deputies allegedly handcuffed two Black men and subjected them to a night of abuse. While Michael Jenkins and Eddie Parker were subdued, the deputies beat them, hurled racist slurs and repeatedly used Tasers on the men…The deputies, who are White, also waterboarded Jenkins and Parker, pelted them with eggs and attempted to sexually assault them with a sex toy…The encounter ended nearly two hours later when a deputy placed a gun in Jenkins's mouth and shot him, permanently injuring his face…Jenkins was transported by medics to the University of Mississippi Medical Center and received several surgeries, according to the lawsuit. Parker was arrested and transported to the Rankin County Jail on a charge of possession of drug paraphernalia…

Capitalism is always at war with workers

Al Jazeera, 7/3–The number of women who died within a year after pregnancy more than doubled between 1999 and 2019 in the United States, a new study has found, with the highest number of deaths recorded among Black women. The study, published on Monday in the Journal of the American Medical Association, looked at maternal deaths between 1999 and 2019 — but not the COVID-19 pandemic spike — for every U.S. state and five racial and ethnic groups. There were an estimated 1,210 maternal deaths in 2019, compared with 505 in 1999, the researchers found.

Overall, the number of deaths per 100,000 live births rose from 12.7 to 32.2 in that 20-year span, while the number of deaths among Black women increased from 26.7 to 55.4. The greatest jump over time was seen among American Indian and Alaska Native women, however – from 14 deaths per 100,000 live births in 1999 to 49.2 in 2009.

East Asia bosses realize fewer babies is a problem

Economist, 6/30–Ultra-low birth rates and stiff resistance to immigration produce shrinking populations: according to the United Nations, the four East Asian territories will see their combined populations shrink by 28% between 2020 and 2075. During the same period, their combined share of global gdp is projected to drop from 26.7% to 17.4%, according to Goldman Sachs…political leaders see families as an urgent policy priority. Xi Jinping, China's leader, has promised "a national policy system to boost birth rates" and launched a national effort to promote "new-era marriage culture." Japan's low birth rate leaves it "on the brink of whether it can continue to function as a society," according to its prime minister, Kishida Fumio…Yoon Suk-yeol, South Korea's president, called his country's birth rate a "crucial national agenda" in need of an "emergency mindset." Taiwan's president, Tsai Ing-wen, has called its declining birth rate a "national-security problem"... Mr Paul Chang, a sociologist at Harvard University argues: "The changes are driven by anxieties, social problems and social conflicts," not the triumph of the individual.

Big Fascists rediscover need for centralized war production

Foreign Affairs, 7/3–Weeks after the fighting began, the New York Times columnist Paul Krugman argued that the United States and its allies are "serving as the 'arsenal of democracy,'...But this lofty rhetoric does not match the reality on the ground. Shortages in production, inadequate labor pools, and interruptions in supply chains have hamstrung the United States' ability to deliver weapons to Ukraine and enhance the country's defense capabilities more broadly. These problems have much to do with the history of the U.S. defense industry since World War II…Back then, the industry was predominantly a government-run business. President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal emphasized economic regulation and relied on "alphabet agencies" such as the Works Progress Administration to boost employment, paving the way for later wartime contracting. New Deal agencies inspired the creation of the War Production Board in 1942, which mobilized business and rationed resources for the battlefront…The government owned nearly 90 percent of the productive capacity of aircraft, ships, and guns and ammunition.

PLP IS YOUR PARTY FOR COMMUNISM

We invite you to participate in Progressive Labor Party's (PLP) international convention on July 14 to July 16. From a meeting of barely two dozen members of the old U.S. communist movement in 1964, PLP has grown into an international party now organizing in five continents. Even as our class faces a dark night and growing inter-imperialist rivalry and fascism, we continue our fightback because this is just the beginning of a worthy struggle towards an international communist revolution.

Over its first first years, PLP has propelled the march to communism—first by leading antiracist, working-class struggle, and then through that struggle advancing communist ideas. This two-pronged strategy—practice and theory—is the basis for winning masses of workers to fight for communism.

Why communism? In our vision, the working class will determine society's future. It will destroy the capitalist world and its brutal exploitation. It will smash a system that drives us into constant unemployment and poverty. It will stop the racism that drags down all workers. It will terminate the racist cops who break our strikes and kill workers, especially our Black, Latin, Asian and immigrant sisters and brothers. And it will end for all time the imperialist wars that send our youth to kill their class brothers and sisters worldwide, all for the bosses' profits.

A communist world

Here is our vision for a communist world:

A society run by workers and for workers. After all, the working class produces everything of value and should rightfully receive the benefits of our labor. Collectively, we can determine how to share what we produce, according to need.

Abolition of the exploitative wage system and the money that runs it. We have no need for the parasitic bosses who steal most of the value of our labor through wage slavery.

Multiracial unity and death to the racism that divides the working class. Racism is rooted in capitalism; the bosses rely on it to steal trillions in super-profits worldwide. Fighting racism is part of the lifeblood of PLP.

The destruction of sexism and the systemic exploitation, oppression, and cultural degradation of women workers. Sexism is a pillar of class society, and capitalism has only furthered this lethal weapon against our class. Women and men must unite to smash sexist ideas and practices. PLP emphasizes working-class women's leadership in making revolution, particularly Black women's leadership.

Eliminating all borders, artificial lines the bosses draw to make even more profits from workers they call "foreigners." Nationalism is an anti-worker ideology that enables the imperialist rulers to exploit natural resources and cheap labor. Communists are internationalists because the working class is one international class, with a common class interest, under one red flag.

This is the world the PLP has fought for from the start. We will continue to fight until our class prevails. We invite all workers to join this struggle—for ourselves, our children and grandchildren, and all the world's children.

Struggle and theory

From our earliest beginnings in the 1960s, PLP has fought tooth and nail against attacks by the ruling class. We have organized and supported Ford workers and striking teachers in Mexico; wildcatting miners in Hazard, Kentucky; longshore workers in New York City; jute (fiber) workers in India; miners in Britain; garment workers in Los Angeles; bank workers in Colombia; transit workers in Washington, DC; Chrysler sit-down strikers at Detroit's Mack Avenue plant; farm workers in California, and bakery workers at Stella D'Oro in the Bronx. We have stood with evicted workers in Palestine-Israel, earthquake victims in Pakistan, and hurricane victims in Haiti and New Orleans.

Antiracism is a hallmark of PLP. We backed Black workers and youth in the 1964 Harlem Rebellion, and fought off racist school segregationists in Boston in 1975. In 1976 we integrated Chicago's Marquette Park while smashing the Nazi headquarters there, and have led more than a hundred thousand protesters against the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis across the United States. We have mobilized against racist killer cops from Brooklyn, New York, to Los Angeles, to Chicago, to Ferguson, Missouri.

PLP has led fierce fightbacks opposing the bosses' wars. In the 1960s, we were the first to organize mass demonstrations for the U.S. to "Get Out of Vietnam!" We formed the Worker-Student Alliance in the anti-war Students for a Democratic Society. PLP broke the U.S. travel ban to Cuba and undermined the rulers' House Un-American Activities Committee to the point of collapse. More recently, working both within the military and on the streets, we exposed the U.S. rulers' invasions of Iraq as a murderous oil grab.

None of these developments came out of thin air. They grew out of our Party's analysis of past class struggles and the achievements of millions of workers. PLP studied the strengths and weaknesses of the communist movement led by—among many others—Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, Josef Stalin and Mao Zedong. In 1917, this movement created a revolution in Russia; in 1949, a revolution in China. It defeated the Nazis in Europe and fascists in Japan in World War II. It reached its highest point in China's Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, which attempted to push back a growing elitism in the Communist Party leadership and put the masses in charge of society.

PLP is the only group on the left to point out what went wrong in the Soviet Union and China. We are the only organization to analyze how socialism in those countries led back to the unvarnished profit system, where all workers are now mired.

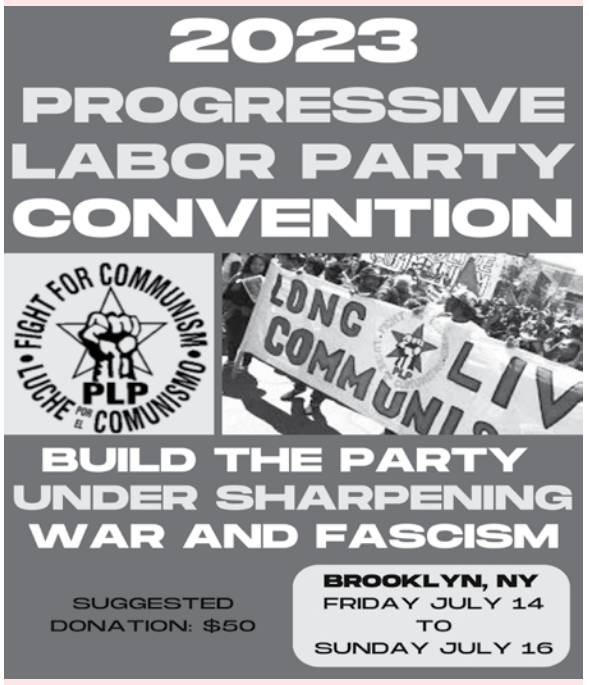
A communist society will have no bosses or profits. It will be led by the working class through its Progressive Labor Party.

Marxism: An evolving idea

The history of the Progressive Labor Party began in 1962. A small group of communists left the Communist Party USA and organized the Progressive Labor Movement. They rejected the CPUSA's capitulation to capitalism and its abandonment of the open advocacy of communist revolution. The old communist movement proposed that the bosses would peacefully relinquish control of society and allow what the CPUSA called "socialism" to be "voted into existence." The communists who formed PLM refused to mislead workers and broke away from the old guard.

In the course of PLP's history, we have rejected some traditional Marxist concepts and advanced a number of new ones, all based on our practice and our examination of world events and the decay of the old communist movement. These new principles are expressed in a series of documents, including Road to Revolution I, II, III and IV; Revolution Not Reform; and "Dark Night Shall Have Its End." (These are all available on PL's website or in pamphlet form.)

Above all, Progressive Labor Party stands for the principle that the working class must fight directly for communism rather than moving first through a transitional phase of socialism. We reject this two-stage theory, a central premise of classical Marxism, because events have shown that socialism inevitably leads back to full-blown capitalism. In both Russia and China, socialism preserved capitalist features like money and the wage system, leading to inequalities that divided the working class. In both of these countries, the communist party became a new ruling class where privileges were attained through party membership. We believe the working class can be won before the revolution to fight directly for communism—to abolish the wage system, the cult of the individual and other capitalist relics.✪



Core principles

PLP's main principles are:

Internationalism, under the slogan "Smash All Borders," where workers' class unity is represented by a single mass, international Party;

The fight against racism, a strategic necessity in the struggle to overthrow capitalism;

The fight against the special oppression of women, another critical component in uniting the working class, a prerequisite for revolution;

A concentration among industrial workers, who produce the capitalists' profits and the weapons for the bosses' imperialist wars;

Workers' power through armed struggle, since the rulers will use their armed state power to violently suppress the working class.

Organizing in the military

Throughout its existence, PLP has fought for these principles in unceasing class struggle. We have learned that building the Party is the first order of business for communists. Capitalism cannot be reformed. Whatever gains workers make in reform struggles are limited and temporary; sooner or later, the bosses always use their state power to take them back. Communists strive to turn reform struggles into schools for communism and building the Party. Winning workers to PLP is the one and only victory the ruling class can never take back. We therefore urge all workers and youth to join us in the next half-century in this historic task: to organize a communist revolution.

If you would like to attend the convention, contact your local PL'er or email desafio.challenge@gmail.com

WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is night of Friday, July 7

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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